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two thousand molecules of liquid water or about five hundred and twenty of albumen lying end to end; and that in order to see the ultimate constitution of organic bodies, we should requre a magnifying power from five hundred to two thousand times greater than those we now possess. He calculates that with our highest powers we are as far from seeing the ultimate molecules of organic substances as we should be from seeing the contents of a newspaper with the naked eye at the distance of a third of a mile. A spherical particle one tenth the diameter of the smallest speck that could be already defined with our best and highest powers, might nevertheless contain no less than one million structural molecules. Mr. Sorby makes a very interesting application of his results to Mr. Darwin's theory of pangenesis, his general conclusion being that no serious objection can be raised against the theory when examined from a purely physical point of view, as far as relates to the inheritance of a very complex variety of characters by the first generation. — A. W. BENNETT.

BOSTON MICROSCOPICAL SOCIETY. — This society held a public reception at Fraternity Hall, on the evening of April 27th, for the purpose of making better known its organization and aims. A short exhibition with the oxy-hydrogen microscope was given, in addition to the use of more than fifty table microscopes, with their accessory apparatus.

EXCHANGES. — [Notices, not exceeding four lines in length, of microscopical objects or apparatus wanted or offered in exchange, not sale, will be inserted in this column without expense.]

Arranged diatoms in exchange for good objects. Address offers to Christian Febiger, Wilmington, Del.

Extract of hop, mounted, showing lupulin crystals; in exchange for any mounted objects. Address Richard Allen, 146 North Fourth Street, Troy, N. Y.

SCIENTIFIC NEWS.

— Physicians will be interested in a work entitled Micro-Photographs in Histology, Normal and Pathological, by Carl Seiler, in conjunction with J. Gibbons Hunt, M. D., and J. G. Richardson, M. D., to be published in twelve number by J. H. Coates, of Philadelphia.

— At a late meeting of the Paris Geographical Society, Dr. Haney stated that a cavern containing numerous Caraïb remains had been discovered at the western extremity of Cuba, and that these proved that the whole of the island was at one time inhabited by that race.

— Professor Marsh publishes in the *American Journal of Science*, for June, a Notice of a New Suborder of Pterosauria. The group is distinguished by the want of teeth.

— Mr. A. R. Marvine, a geologist of much promise, has recently died. He was at the time of his death attached to Professor Hayden's Survey.

— The Smithsonian collections for the International Exhibition have been forwarded to Philadelphia from Washington. They are designed to illustrate the resources of sea and shore, of the chase and fisheries, in the United States. Specimens of all the animals in this country will be exhibited, and all the machinery of hunting and trapping will receive the amplest illustration. It is stated that there are forty-five hundred casts of food fishes now at the Smithsonian ready to be sent. The casts are made of plaster and papier mache, modeled from frozen specimens and from photographs. Among the other objects there will be a running screen of the size of eighteen hundred square feet, filled with photographs of American food fishes. The dresses of the fishermen in various climates, the varieties of flies used in catching trout, the fishing rod, the harpoon, and the lance, will all be shown. The chase of the whale will be fully explained by the plainest object lessons, and among the treasures is a cast showing the capture of a whale. The exhibition of furs will be one of the most remarkable ever seen on the continent. The useful products of our inland and foreign waters (other than vertebrates), have been arranged by Dr. Dall. Among these will be shellfish, crabs, shrimps, corals, star-fish, sponges, and marine products not of an animal nature. Specimens of rare American animals and reptiles, and a group of lay figures intended to convey an idea of the character and habits of the North American Indians, will complete a very excellent collection.

PROCEEDINGS OF SOCIETIES.

National Academy of Sciences, Washington. — April 18–20. Professor Henry opened the public session by delivering the annual report which serves as a review of the year. It was confined to the official affairs of the Academy. The report of this year contains a touching allusion to the loss the Academy has sustained in the death of Prof. Joseph Winlock, the astronomer of Cambridge, Mass. Among the most prominent of the supporters of the Academy who have been called away by death during the past year was Vice-President Henry Wilson, who, although not a member, was one of the founders. He took a chief share in the preparation of the bill under which the Academy was organized, and urged its passage through Congress. Reviewing the present condition of the Academy, Professor Henry remarked that the plan by which its headquarters were fixed at Washington presented some inconvenience as a centre in comparison with larger cities ; but there is no other place in the Union which contains so large a proportion of scientific men to its inhabitants, and the local society devoted to science is among the most prominent in the land. The establishment of the Johns Hopkins University at Baltimore, is now certain also to concentrate at no great distance from Washington a considerable band of prominent men of science.